

Special Events: Big Cat-Nap Campout, Dino Days, Egg Safari, Spring Camp

TOUCAN TALK

March - April 2004



Baby Black Rhino

A critically endangered species

Komodo Dragon Conservation

Corporate Survival Challenge

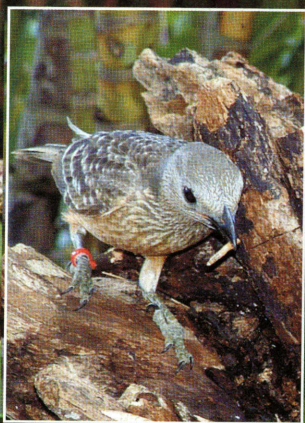
LOOK

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO



Raggianna Bird of Paradise
(Background Image) Found only in New Guinea, the males are renowned for their spectacularly beautiful plumage.

PHOTOS: DOLORA BATCHELOR



Fawn-breasted bowerbird *(Inset Photos) Named for the bowers – complex brightly decorated structures – that the males build to attract females.*

BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS

- 1 Male black rhinoceros.....Jan. 29, 2004
- 1 Male addax (First birth of 2004)Jan. 10, 2004
- 4 South American red-footed tortoises* Dec. 5 & 25, 2003
- 1 Yellow-backed duiker*Dec. 5, 2003
- 1 Grant's gazelle*
 (parent-reared on display)Nov. 25, 2003

ACQUISITIONS

- 2 Male, 2 female chiloe wigeons.....Jan. 8, 2004
- 2 Male, 2 female rosybillsJan. 8, 2004
- 2 Male, 2 female open-billed storksDec.12, 2003
- 1 Male Maguari storkDec.12, 2003
- 1 Male, 1 female Storm's storksDec.12, 2003
- 1 Female vulturine guineafowlDec.12, 2003
- 1 Male kori bustardDec.12, 2003
- 1 Male American merganserDec.10, 2003
- 1 Female white storkDec.10, 2003
- 1 African spurred tortoise*Nov. 19, 2003

AVIARY HATCHING

- 1 Nicobar pigeon* (parent reared)Dec. 23, 2003

NEW IN THE AVIARY

- 1 Male Victoria crowned pigeonJan. 8, 2004
- 1 Male, 1 female green imperial pigeonsDec.12, 2003
- 1 Male dark-backed imperial pigeonDec.12, 2003
- 1 Female, 1* pink-spotted fruit dovesDec.12, 2003
- 1 Male black-napped orioleNov. 21, 2003
- 2 Male, 2 female metallic starlings.....Nov. 20, 2003
- 1 Male white-eared catbird.....Nov. 20, 2003
- 2 Male fawn-breasted bowerbirdsNov. 20, 2003
- 1 Male, 1 female
 Raggianna birds-of-paradise.....Nov. 20, 2003

RELEASED INTO THE WILD

- 1 American crocodile*Dec. 8, 2003

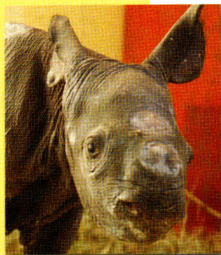
* Gender undetermined

Contents

On the Cover:

The Red List of Threatened Species, published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), categorizes the black rhinoceros as "critically endangered."

PHOTO: RON MAGILL



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TOUCAN TALK



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Our mission is to encourage an appreciation for the world's wildlife and to help conserve it for future generations.

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It's exciting to see how much fun our visitors are having as they cheerfully peddle the quadricycles throughout the Zoo during the crisp, clear winter days. If you haven't been to the Zoo in a while, you must treat yourself soon!

We value your membership in the Zoological Society of Florida, and request that you consider a ZSF membership or adopt an animal this year as unique gifts for your relatives and friends. These are inexpensive ways you can help ZSF and Miami Metrozoo's education and conservation efforts.

Glenn W. Ekey
President & CEO,
Zoological Society of Florida

Be sure to come see the new birds in the American Bankers Family Aviary, Wings of Asia. We continue to acquire new birds, and some aviary residents are nesting, with significant hatches of Javan pond herons and banded rails already occurring. Don't miss the movie detailing the link between birds and dinosaurs in the Conservation Theater at the Field Research Center – it's wonderful!

We thought you'd be interested in some of the conservation efforts underway here at Miami Metrozoo. You can always find out more about our animals and breeding programs when you attend the Keeper Talks scheduled throughout the day.

It's a great winter at the Zoo, and we're looking forward to even greater happenings in 2004.

Eric Stephens,
Director,
Miami
Metrozoo

TOUCAN 4 TALK

Taking flight in the American Bankers Family Aviary

Wings of Asia

Now that the aviary has been open for almost a year, it's hard to imagine the Zoo without it. More than 260 birds representing 74 species are thriving and successfully reproducing in the largest open-air Asian aviary in the United States. Only Asian birds are kept in the *Wings of Asia*, and several are very rarely found in the U.S.

The birds have quickly become acclimated to their home, and many are nesting and hatching where the visitor can easily view them. One hatching in particular caused much excitement. To the best of our knowledge, we had the first successful hatching in captivity of the Javan pond heron, and the chicks have been raised exclusively by their parents.

The storyline that today's birds are living dinosaurs sets the American Bankers Family Aviary, *Wings of Asia* apart from other aviaries. Children can learn about modern birds and dinosaurs through play and hands-on interactive exhibits. The fossil excavation dig pit is a big hit with the kids. Throughout the Aviary plaza, storyboards and colorful models explain the links between dinosaurs and modern birds.

When entering the aviary, go first to the **Field Research Center** and watch the 12-minute film about the dinosaur-to-bird connection. Then examine the story stations in the Plaza. When you enter the **Observation Center**, take the time to examine the hands-on activities and storyboards about modern birds. Then go into the Free-flight Aviary and study the birds and the storyboards in the rest pavilions. You'll be amazed at the new perspective you'll have on our feathered friends!

As you exit the Free-flight Aviary through the **Potamkin Conservation Center**, watch the short video on how you, too, can begin conservation efforts at home. Don't forget to visit the Aviary's Gift Shop. There are wonderful souvenirs of our Asian birds.



White-eared catbird

PHOTO: DOLORA BATCHELOR

Be a Zoo Volunteer

By Carol Lang, Director of Human Resources and Volunteer Services
and Nora Robbins, Manager of Volunteer Services

Volunteers are a vital part of Miami Metrozoo and provide valuable assistance to the Zoo and its visitors through the Volunteer Services Department of the Zoological Society of Florida.

- *Administrative Volunteers* provide technical support to various departments in the Zoo and ZSF offices.
- *Aviary Volunteers* interact with visitors in the Aviary plaza, as well as inside the Aviary's educational / observation center. Docents point out birds and interpret behavior.
- *Children's Zoo Volunteers* interact with children and adults in the Petting Yard, or provide close-up encounters at ToadStool.
- *Docents* are volunteer "educators" who provide informal conservation education to Zoo visitors throughout the Zoo. They conduct walking tours, provide educational presentations with small animals, and share information with visitors about the Zoo's animal collection.
- *Dr. Wilde's World Volunteers* staff this educational gallery, interpreting the exhibits and providing information to Zoo visitors.
- *Gift Shop Volunteers* assist customers, operate cash registers, and help staff with inventory.
- *Special Events Volunteers* participate in various events taking place on Zoo grounds, such as hiding eggs at the Great Metrozoo Egg Safari and distributing treats at Metroboo!
- *Zoo Host Volunteers* meet and greet Zoo visitors and school field trip groups, answering general questions about daily activities and other visitor concerns.

Volunteer Requirements

- Be age 18 or over
- Complete an application and interview
- Become a member of the Zoological Society of Florida
- Successfully complete all required training programs
- Adhere to the policies and procedures of the ZSF Volunteer Program
- Contribute a minimum of 60 hours per year



Volunteer Sharyn Yesner demonstrates a training technique with Sydney, the umbrella cockatoo from the Children's Zoo.


How to become a Volunteer

Prospective volunteers are invited to attend one of our Open Houses, where they will find out more details about Metrozoo's Volunteer Program and the upcoming training schedule. After filling out an application and completing an interview, all new volunteers are required to attend two full-day Orientation Classes. Some positions require more classroom training before volunteers begin learning their chosen positions.

Volunteer Open Houses

Sun., Mar. 07	2-4 P.M.	ZSF Boardroom
Wed., Mar. 10	2-4 P.M.	ZSF Classroom
Sun., May 02	2-4 P.M.	ZSF Board Room
Wed., May 05	2-4 P.M.	ZSF Classroom

For more information: Call the Department of Volunteer Services at (305) 255-5551, ext. 124.



Saving the Komodo Dragon

KOMODO DRAGON CONSERVATION BIOLOGY AND POPULATION MANAGEMENT

*A Study of Parentage Analysis and sex ratio of wild Komodo dragons • 2001-2002 Field Activities
By Claudio Ciofi, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University*

The Komodo monitor, *Varanus komodoensis*, is endemic to the islands of Komodo, Rinca, Gili Motang, Gili Dasami and Flores, Lesser Sunda region, Indonesia. Four of these islands are part of Komodo National Park, established in 1980. Outside the park, on the island of Flores, the species is protected in the Wae Wuul and Wolo Tado reserves, two areas located on the western and northern coasts of the island, respectively. Komodo National Park now comprises a total population of about 3,000 individuals. The population size on Flores is still unknown, and distribution of the species was described on the western part of the island only.

In the last three decades, the Komodo monitor has faced a number of human-related threats. Poaching of prey species caused the extinction of the Komodo dragon from the island of Padar, part of the species' range in 1970. Poaching continues to threaten the long-term survival of these huge monitors both inside and outside protected areas. However, on Flores, the decline in the Komodo monitor population is attributed mostly to habitat encroachment.

While efforts are being directed toward the protection of the species and its habitat, the present study is gathering detailed information on the ecology, genetics, and demography of extant populations to provide background knowledge for devising *in-situ* management plans and for captive breeding programs.

This project has been supported in part by Miami Metrozoo, and is carried out in collaboration with the Indonesian Department of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation and the University of Udayana in Bali, Indonesia. The program, which has strong educational and training components, provides financial and logistical support to Indonesian undergraduate and graduate students, academic personnel, and staff of Komodo National Park for conducting field research.

PHOTOS: RON MAGILL



Miami Metrozoo supports Komodo dragon conservation and research efforts

By Steve Conners, General Curator, Miami Metrozoo

Miami Metrozoo has provided funding for the following activities:

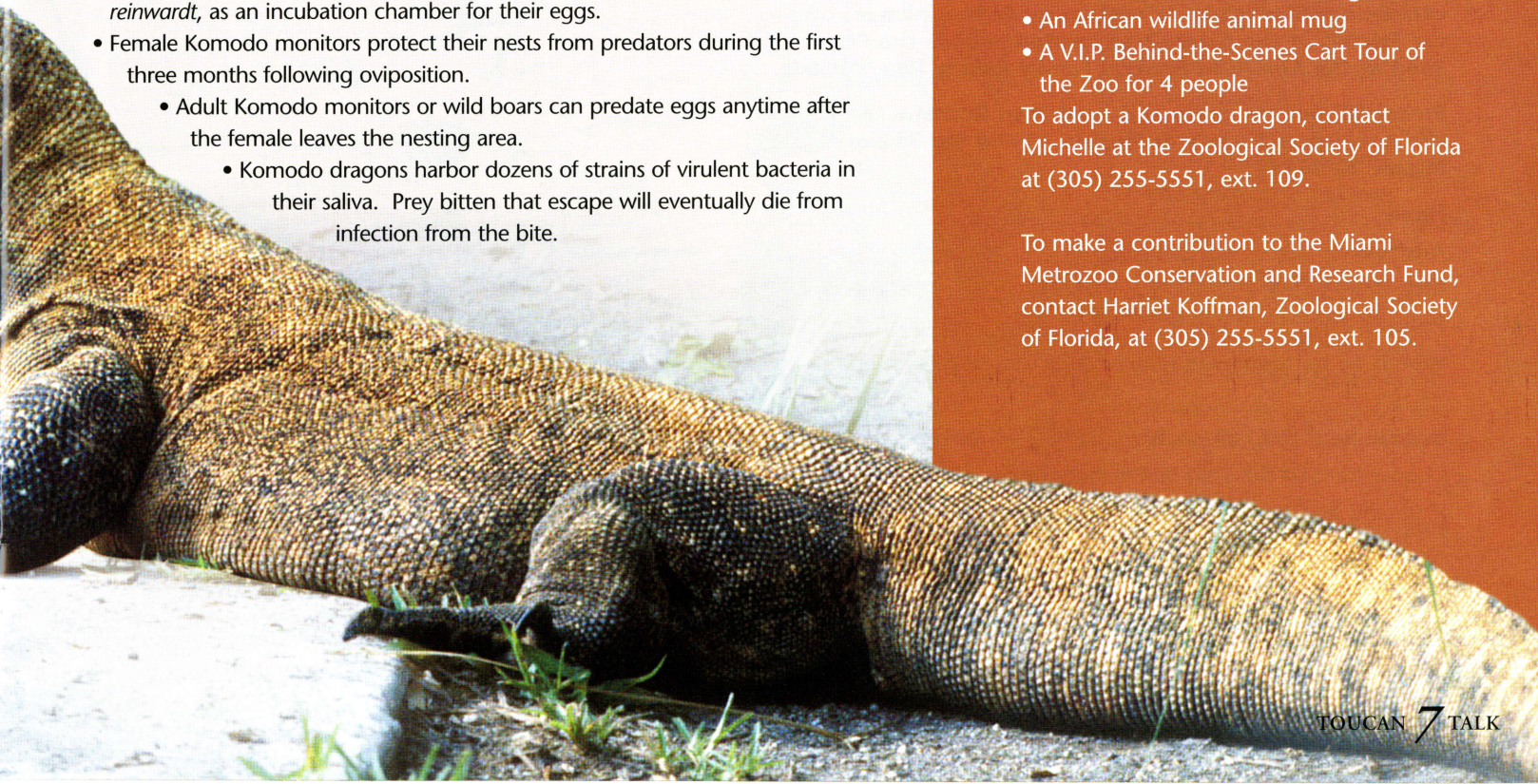
- A study of the mating system of wild Komodo monitors by means of genetic techniques,
- An assessment of the sex ratio of wild clutches by DNA analysis,
- The training of Indonesian students in the collection of morphological data and blood samples from hatchlings and adult Komodo monitors, and
- In 1999, Putra Sastrawan, professor at the University of Udayana and one of the first Komodo dragon researchers, gave a lecture at Miami Metrozoo on his research.

Other Projects Supported by the Miami Metrozoo Conservation and Research Fund:

- Jamaican Iguana Conservation
- Andean Condor Reintroduction
- Flamingo Conservation in Mexico
- Health Care of Asian Elephants in Sumatra

Komodo Facts:

- Komodo monitors are both predators and scavengers.
- Although adult males are larger than females, it is difficult to tell them apart.
- Average egg incubation in captive breeding studies is approximately 240 days.
- Komodo monitors often use nests of the Megapode bird, *Megapodius reinwardt*, as an incubation chamber for their eggs.
- Female Komodo monitors protect their nests from predators during the first three months following oviposition.
 - Adult Komodo monitors or wild boars can predate eggs anytime after the female leaves the nesting area.
 - Komodo dragons harbor dozens of strains of virulent bacteria in their saliva. Prey bitten that escape will eventually die from infection from the bite.



You too, can be a part of Metrozoo's Conservation Team!

You can adopt the Komodo dragon for only \$250. You will receive:

- An adoption certificate and fact sheet about the Komodo dragon
- An Adopt-An-Animal auto decal
- A 4x6 color photo of your adopted Komodo dragon
- A Zoobook about Komodo dragons
- An African wildlife animal mug
- A V.I.P. Behind-the-Scenes Cart Tour of the Zoo for 4 people

To adopt a Komodo dragon, contact Michelle at the Zoological Society of Florida at (305) 255-5551, ext. 109.

To make a contribution to the Miami Metrozoo Conservation and Research Fund, contact Harriet Koffman, Zoological Society of Florida, at (305) 255-5551, ext. 105.

Thank You!

The Zoological Society of Florida and Miami Metrozoo extend a sincere Thank You to all our supporters and benefactors. Your financial support of our education and conservation programs is deeply appreciated. You are indeed wonderful friends!

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Friends of the Aviary

Don't miss out on an amazing opportunity to honor or commemorate a family member, loved one or friend inside Miami Metrozoo's beautiful Aviary ... while supporting the best zoo in the world!

Hurry and reserve your permanent and very limited commemorative leaves or custom-made bird plaques on the Friends of the Aviary Tree located outside the Gift Shop at the American Bankers Family Aviary, *Wings of Asia*.

Please fill out the form and send it to Ron Stayton at the Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152nd Street, Miami, FL 33177.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Words to be engraved (limited to 60 Characters including spaces) per leaf and plaque _____

Bronze Leaf @ \$100 each _____ Silver Leaf @ \$200 each _____ Gold Leaf @ \$300 each _____

Choose from six different Bird Plaques (made of plexiglass with a walnut finish frame) @ \$1,500 each. Specify bird(s): 1. Golden Pheasant, 2. Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, 3. Bali Mynah, 4. Jambu Fruit Dove, 5. Great Indian Hornbill, and 6. Black-capped Lory

Total Amount \$ _____ Credit Card: _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____ American Express _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

To pay by check or cash, contact Ron Stayton at the Zoological Society of Florida at (305) 255-5551, ext. 120.



Thank you!

You're a great friend!

On behalf of all our furry, winged, and scaly friends at Miami Metrozoo, we thank you for your kindness and generosity.

The mission of the Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF) and Miami Metrozoo is to encourage an appreciation for the world's wildlife and to help conserve it for future generations.

Please help us update our record.

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AFFIX

YES! I want to support the Zoological Society of Florida's work at Miami Metrozoo.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

- \$1,000 \$500
 \$250 \$100
 \$50 \$25
 Other amount \$ _____

We are grateful for donations of any amount and ask that you be as generous as possible.

My donation is for:

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CAMPERS!

IMPORTANT: PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF FORM.

CAMPERS ONLY/CAMPER'S MEDICAL INFORMATION

Emergency Contact Name _____

Phone _____

Physician's Name _____

Phone _____

Dentist's Name _____

Phone _____

In an emergency, if the parent, guardian, or designated physician/dentist cannot be reached, I authorize the Zoological Society of Florida to transport and/or obtain medical services from any physician/dentist for my child.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date _____

Please indicate any medical conditions or health problems of which the Camp staff should be aware.

Please describe: (if you require further space, please use a separate sheet of paper):

Allergies _____

Handicap _____

Prescribed Medications _____

Other _____

(Your signature below gives permission to Camp staff to dispense only required medications you send with your child. Please provide the prescribed container, paraphernalia necessary for taking medications, and explicit instructions on a separate sheet of paper.)

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date _____

NAME OF PERSON(S) WHO WILL PICK UP THE CHILD

Name _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

Second name _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

* A registration is complete upon receipt of a confirmation from the Education Department.

For reservations, call 305-255-5551 and mail registration form to
Zoological Society of Florida/Education Department,
12400 SW 152 St, Miami, FL 33177-1499 or fax to 305-255-7126

Mother rhino, Kibo, makes eye contact with her newborn



Miracle Birth

PHOTOS: RON MAGILL

At approximately 5:30 on the morning of January 29, 2004, Kibo, an 18-year-old African black rhinoceros, gave birth to a yet unnamed male in the rhinoceros barn in the African lobe at Metrozoo.

This is a very important birth for several reasons. Foremost, the black rhinoceros is one of the most critically endangered large vertebrates of the world. Kibo has had a very difficult reproductive history with her previous five pregnancies, and she has successfully delivered only one live baby. The other four resulted in stillborns or late-term spontaneous abortions.

When we discovered that Kibo was pregnant, she was put on a carefully planned regimen of hormone treatments by the Metrozoo veterinary department in an effort to assist her to reach a full-term pregnancy resulting in a live birth. Each morning for several months, she was given her supplemental hormones in flavored gelatin. The gelatin soon became her favorite food item and was instrumental in her successful treatment.

Although the staff at Metrozoo is elated with the successful birth, the infant is considered to be at a very high risk because it was born severely underweight and compromised by Kibo's reproductive

history. The normal length of pregnancy for a black rhinoceros is between 15 and 16 months with an average birth weight of approximately 80 pounds. Though full-term, this newborn weighed only 51 pounds, measured 69 cm, and was relatively weak and slow to stand following the birth. The vets tube fed him and provided heat lamps in the enclosure for the first few hours. Kibo was very cooperative, allowing the keepers and vets access to the baby, and returned the baby's calls and checked on him.



(L-R) Amy Neill, zookeeper; Stephanie Monnier, veterinarian; Rebecca Mulder, zookeeper; John Mielt, zookeeper; Chriss Miller, veterinarian and Mike Fiuza, zookeeper with baby black rhino.

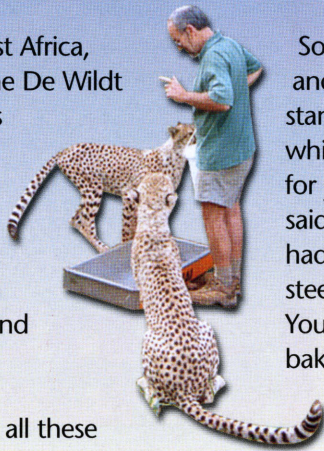
Later, during the first 24 hours, the baby nursed 11 times and gained 8 pounds! The staff will keep a round-the-clock eye on mother and baby to ensure that everything is being done to provide Metrozoo's newest addition with the strongest and healthiest start in life. Both are doing well.



A WILDLIFE FAIRY TALE

By Alan Strachan, Curator
De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust, South Africa
Photos by Vanessa Bauer, De Wildt

Once upon a time in deepest Africa, there lived a Curator at the De Wildt Cheetah Centre. Alan was his name. His job was to feed and care for all the animals at De Wildt, and this included over a hundred cheetahs, almost eighty African wild dogs, a handful of hyenas and various other animals.



Some time later, Ron phoned Alan from the U.S. and told Alan to look outside his window. There, standing in the road, was a brand new, glistening white Ford Ranger Hi-Trail Diesel Bakkie. "That's for you buddy, from all your friends in Miami," said Ron. Alan could not believe it. The bakkie had new tires (something very rare), power steering, a hooter (horn) and brakes that worked. You could even turn the steering wheel and the bakkie would steer in that direction!

To carry all the food required for all these animals, Alan had a trusty (and rusty) old bakkie (this is a South African name for a pick-up truck) he used to call the "Wonder Bakkie." It was called this because every day Alan used to wonder if it would start! Wonder if it had brakes! And even wonder if the steering wheel would work that day.

This is no Fairy Tale, it is how one man, many thousands of kilometres away could help in the conservation of wildlife. My thanks go to Ron Magill, all the management and staff of Miami Metrozoo, the friends who donated the money, not only for the new bakkie, but to build more cub camps at De Wildt and support the Wild Cheetah Management Project. If we had more people with the commitment of Ron and our friends at Miami Metrozoo, our wildlife in zoos or in the wild would be in a much happier state.

Each day, for many years, Alan and his loyal helper Samson would set off on their arduous journey, not knowing what to expect as De Wildt is built on a steep hill. Whenever Alan heard a "PING," it usually meant the handbrake had released itself on the hill, and the bakkie would set off on it's own, with Samson screaming in delight on the back.

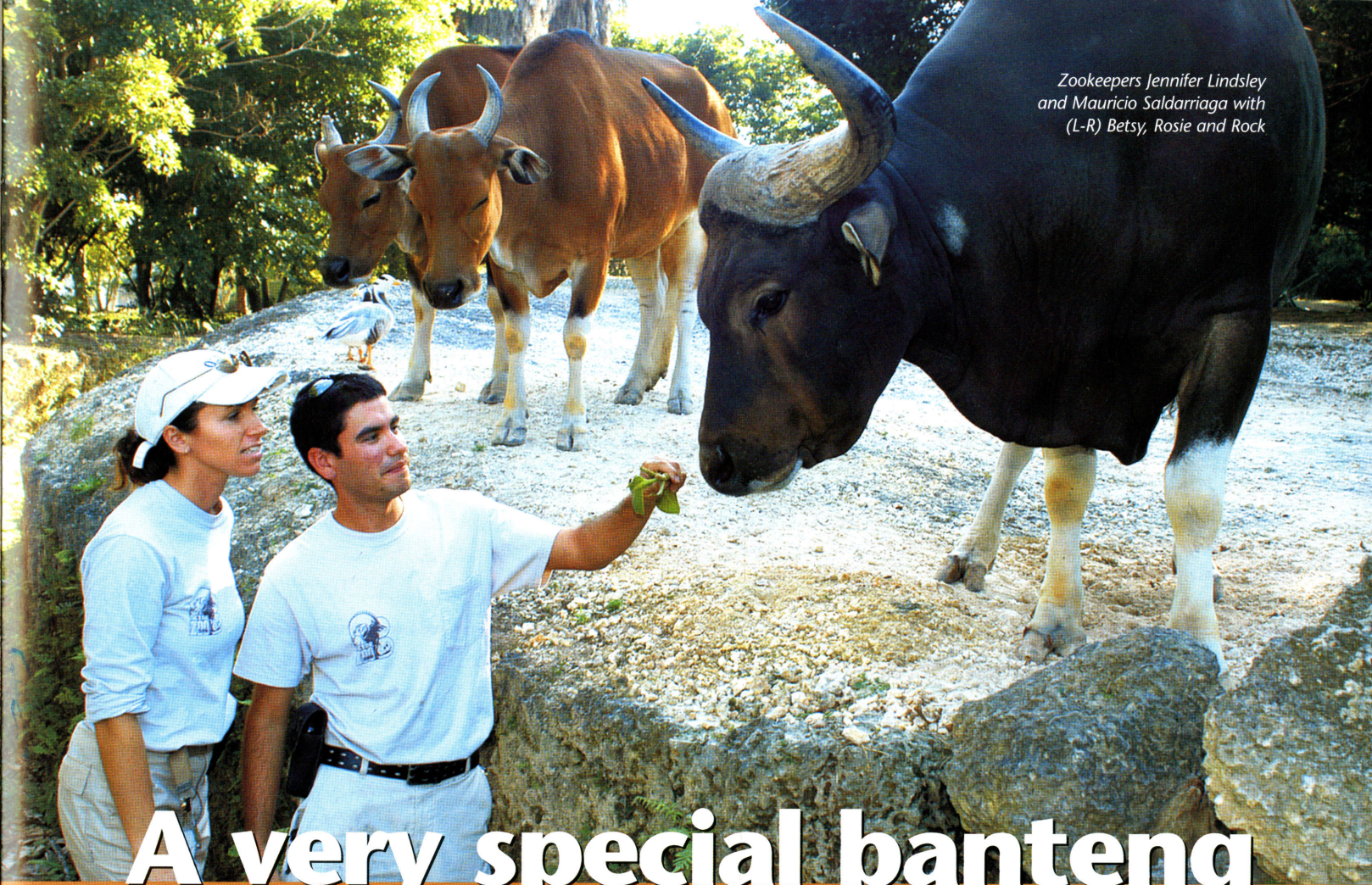


One day an old friend of Alan's, Miami Metrozoo's Goodwill Ambassador Ron Magill, came to visit. Ron had always wanted to go on a "feeding trip," so he bravely climbed into the passenger seat. With his knees bent at an angle and his head touching the roof, Ron braced himself for the trip.

My grateful thanks to all!



Samson in the Miami Metrozoo "bakkie" and Alan consulting with the cheetah.



Zookeepers Jennifer Lindsley
and Mauricio Saldarriaga with
(L-R) Betsy, Rosie and Rock

A very special banteng

By Jennifer Lindsley and Mauricio Saldarriaga, Zookeepers

The Species Survival Plan (SSP) has determined that genetically, Rosie is the third most important banteng to be used for breeding. That means she is the third least related to any other banteng in the program, and her offspring would be genetically strong.

Born at Miami Metrozoo in 1992, "Rosie" is the younger of two female Banteng, celebrating her twelfth birthday on April 14th. Rosie shares her exhibit with "Betsy", 16 and "Rock", a 5-year-old male, and is easily recognized by her set of full-length horns (Betsy lacks the tip of one horn). Now Rosie is not just any Banteng. She is ranked number 3 by the Species Survival Plan (SSP). In order to maintain healthy genetic diversity within the captive population of Banteng, it is essential for Rosie to reproduce. (C'mon Rock!)

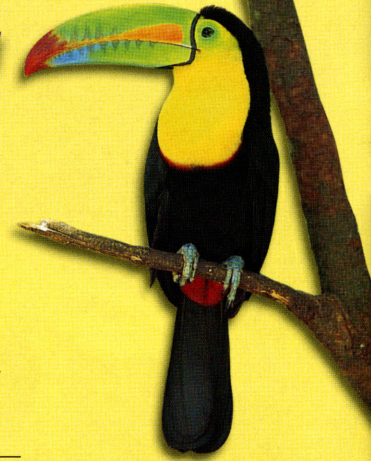
The shy Banteng (*Bos javanicus*) is found throughout Asia, Indonesia, and Northern Australia. Herds of 2 to 40 animals are comprised of females and one lucky male. Large populations of Banteng have been domesticated and they now breed freely with common farm cattle to produce fertile offspring. Reaching an adult weight of 1300 to 1750 pounds, Banteng are often identified by the white rump patch and white "stockings" worn by both the males and females. In the wild, Banteng roam dry, open areas but rely on dense thickets and forests for safety. Due to human

activity, these animals are endangered and have become predominantly nocturnal, although the latter is not the case for our small herd at Metrozoo.

Throughout her life, Rosie's health has required us to make modifications in her husbandry. She has been plagued with a disconcerting cough, and during the past year has been leaving behind trails of undigested food. A medical examination showed a blockage had developed in Rosie's esophagus, preventing the passage of hay. It was determined that Rosie would be limited to a strict diet of grain and shredded fruits and vegetables; whole browse and hay are off the menu.

Rosie is slowly adjusting to her new regimen. We hope that in time she will once again be able to eat hay with the rest of her herd; but if not, we will do everything we can to make her grain irresistible. Equally important, we hope her health will not be a set back in breeding, as we already have selected names for her offspring!

KIDZOODLE



Play the Animal Match Game, It's all about the claws!!!

Here's how to play:

Fill in the two blanks next to each of the seven animal names at right. The first blank is for photos and connect-a-dot drawing A - G. The second blank is for claw descriptions 1 - 7.

Here's an example:

Meerkat Photo: A, Description: 1

Big hint, that's a wrong answer, but we're sure you can do better!!

Match animal with correct letters and numbers

Meerkat Photo: _____, Description: _____

Tree Kangaroo Photo: _____, Description: _____

Harpy Eagle Photo: _____, Description: _____

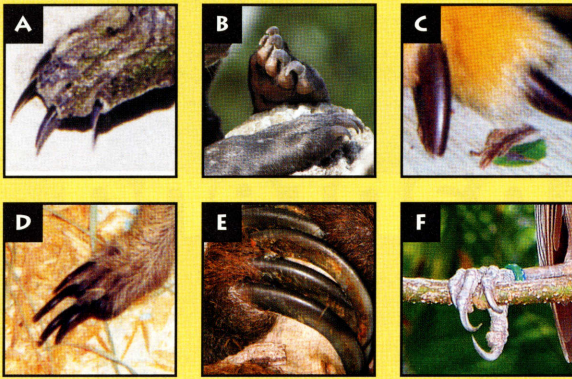
Matamata Turtle Photo: _____, Description: _____

Malayan Sun Bear Photo: _____, Description: _____

Sloth Photo: _____, Description: _____

Raggianna Bird of Paradise Photo: _____, Description: _____

Photos: Use letter for fill-in the blank.



PHOTOS: A. SHERRIE AVERY; B. GEORGINA SALUP; C. BARBARA CRUTCHFIELD; D. SHERRIE AVERY; E. SHERRIE AVERY; F. DOLORA BATCHELOR

Claw Descriptions: Use number for fill-in the blank.

1. Its long front claws are used for digging burrows and finding food.
2. Its foot has three toes pointing forward and one back, and it uses its claws mainly for perching.
3. Its powerful sharp claws are used for killing and carrying large prey as well as for perching.
4. It uses its claws for digging into a camouflage position in shallow muddy water and for creating its nest.
5. On its front feet, its claws are hooked and are used for hanging from branches and for self defense.
6. Its short, broad feet and long claws are adapted for living in and climbing through trees.
7. Its extremely long, curved claws are an adaptation for tree climbing, to dig for worms & insects and to tear up bark to expose termites and honey.

Connect-A-Dot (G)

It's a lot of fun:

Start at dot number 1, just above the eye that's already drawn and continue connecting dots until you reveal the animal that's hiding.

Another big hint...remember, this is Letter G for the fill-in the blank!!

Give up? Stand on your head and read the answers below...

Meerkat Photo: D, Description: 1
Tree Kangaroo Photo: C, Description: 6
Harpy Eagle Photo: G, Description: 3
Matamata Turtle Photo: A, Description: 4
Malayan Sun Bear Photo: B, Description: 7
Sloth Photo: E, Description: 5
Raggianna Bird of Paradise Photo: F, Description: 2

Answers:



FIRE IN THE PINE ROCKLANDS

By Lily M. R. Forni, Recreation Specialist, Education Department

In the darkness of night, it seemed that the fire was contained. Yet through the night on January 7, and into the next day, the fire was spreading out, creeping along the underground saw palmetto trunks. Smoldering pines dropped burning bits into the wind that was blowing its hearty gusts toward the eastern edges of the Zoo.

What happened in the pinelands? At least three people heard fireworks that were not in the Zoo, but near its borders on that Wednesday night. It is likely that a bottle rocket or other fireworks started

the 93-acre blaze. This is the dry season, with lots of tinder. In the stiff breeze, the fire traveled rapidly towards the Australian exhibits. Madelyn McClean and Randall Tucker, Zookeepers, climbed to the top of the warthog night house, saw the fire progressing rapidly, and took action. Some patches of fire were up to eight feet in height. Keepers were moving animals to safer areas, soaking exhibits, and pinelands with water. Attempts to stamp out some patches of fire were successful, but by then, the fire itself was beyond extinguishing.

At night, the redhot embers flew down and then danced upward on a draft, and fell downward again in swirls, creating an eerie but fascinating sight. Firefighters from Miami-Dade County, Natural Areas Management, and Division of Forestry all played a role in keeping the fire away from the animal exhibits. Miami Metrozoo staff worked with fire management staff to create a plan for controlled burns to minimize a wildfire risk.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**Saturday, March 13,
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

Join us for a Pineland Cleanup!

Lift your spirits! Make contact with Mother Nature! Because of the January 7, 2004 fire in the pinelands, palmetto fronds no longer block the view. Here's a wonderful opportunity to clear the litter and your harried mind, while helping Metrozoo clean up this endangered pineland environment. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a hat, gloves, and plastic or paper grocery bags.

Cost: Free for the cleanup in the pinelands.

Individuals, families, and friends 14 years and older:

Sign in at Zoological Society of Florida reception area near the Emperor Tamarins, in front of the ticket booths.

Youth groups 14 years and older: Pre-register by calling (305) 255-5551 ext. 131.



PHOTO: SHERRIE AVERY

BIG CAT-NAP CAMPOUT

**Friday, March 19,
6 P.M. - 9 A.M.**

Participate in Miami Metrozoo's First Annual Big Cat-Nap Campout! Mark your calendars, pack up your camping gear, and head to the Zoo to experience a night of wilderness, complete with sound effects (provided by Zoo animals)! Call for details and registration materials, (305) 255-5551, ext. 125.

Space is limited, so register early. Reservation deadline is March 10, 2004.

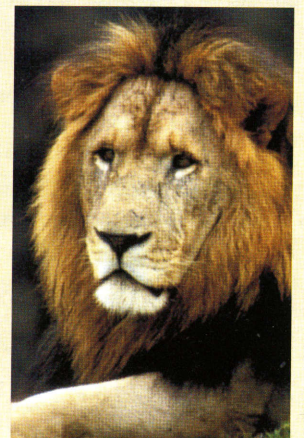


PHOTO: RON MAGILL

PROGRAM EVENTS AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For more information, please call the Zoological Society of Florida at (305) 255-5551 or visit the Zoo's website at www.miamimetrozoo.com.

ZOO PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS



ZOO INN Fridays and Saturdays 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 A.M.

Bring your scout troop, youth group, biology class or adult group to spend the night! In this sleepover program, you'll have a walking Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the Zoo after dark and a special morning activity. Zoo Inns are available for adults and children at least six years of age and include pizza dinner and continental breakfast.

COST: Members: \$45.00 per person
Non-Members: \$50.00 per person

Minimum group size: 15; Maximum group size: 30. Pre-registration is required. Program varies according to animal availability.

WILD NIGHTS

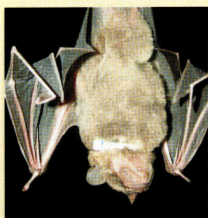
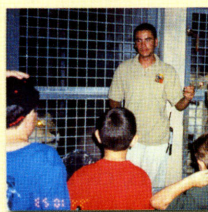
Saturdays, March 27 and April 17 6:00 – 9:00 P.M.

Join us for a special 2-3 hour walking Behind-the-Scenes Tour led by a zookeeper to selected animal exhibits. This Wild Night begins with a pizza party and is available for adults and children at least six years old.

Call today for available dates! *Special dates for private groups are available. Pre-registration is required.*

COST: Members: \$25.00 per person
Non-Members: \$30.00 per person

Minimum group size: 15; Maximum group size: 30. Pre-registration is required. Program varies according to animal availability.



BATS AND FRIENDS Sunday, March 14th, 2:00 – 3:00 P.M. *Back by popular demand!*

Are bats really blind? Can they get caught in our hair? Come join us in Dr. Wilde's World's new exhibit "Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats" for a batty good time! Bring your toddler and learn exciting facts about these mysterious creatures. Enjoy a bat story and make a cool bat craft to take home. *Recommended for young children, and whom an adult must accompany.*

COST: Members: \$13.00 per child with one adult; \$5.00 additional child or adult
Non-Members: \$15.00 per child with one adult; \$6.00 additional child or adult

Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.

PROGRAM EVENTS AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For more information, please call the Zoological Society of Florida at (305) 255-5551 or visit the Zoo's website at www.miamimetrozoo.com.

ZOODLER ACADEMY March – April

Bring your toddler to our popular parent and child program for two. The Zoodler Academy provides a safe and friendly environment for children to meet animals and learn about nature. The program includes a story, craft project, touch table, and live animals.

TUESDAYS

2-3-Year-Olds: 3:30-4:30 P.M.

March 02 *Stripes and Spots*
March 09 *Who lives here?*
March 16 *Amazing Asia*
March 23 *Australian Outback*
April 06 *African Savannah*
April 13 *South American Adventure*
April 20 *We love our earth*
April 27 *Dinnertime at the Zoo*

THURSDAYS

2-4-Year-Olds: 1:30-2:30 P.M.

3-4-Year-Olds: 3:30-4:30 P.M.
March 04 *Stripes and Spots*
March 11 *Who lives here?*
March 18 *Amazing Asia*
March 25 *Australian Outback*
April 08 *African Savannah*
April 15 *South American Adventure*
April 22 *We love our earth*
April 29 *Dinnertime at the Zoo*

COST: Members: One Adult and One Child: \$13.00 per class; Additional Participants (Infant through Adult): \$5.00 each per class.
Non-Members: One Adult and One Child: \$15.00 per class; Additional Participants (Infant through Adult): \$6.00 each per class. Alumni of Zoodler Academy's 2002-2003 Season: \$2.00 discount per class.

Note: The Zoodler Program is for one adult and one child. Class sizes are limited and pre-registration is required. Additional participants must also pre-enroll in order to attend class.

No refunds or credits for missed classes.

SPRING CAMP AT METROZOO

Monday, March 29 – Friday, April 2, 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. Ages 4-11 years old

Registration includes morning & afternoon snacks, a t-shirt, and a week filled with lots of fun activities!

- Morning drop-off is from 8:30 – 9:00 A.M.
- Extended care is 3:30 – 5:30 P.M. Cost: \$25.00 for the five days of Camp
- Cancellation fee: A \$30 fee is applied if cancellation is made ten days or less prior to the first day of camp

Cost: \$150.00 (Members: \$130.00)

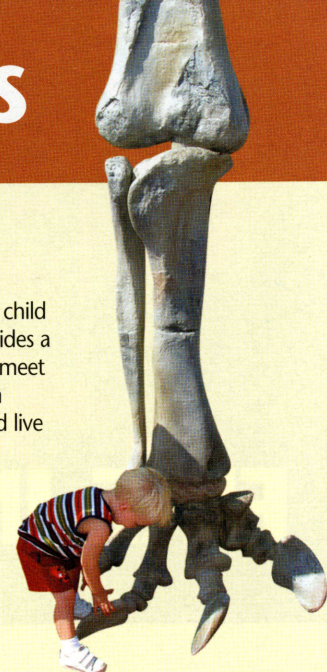
Pre-registration with full payment is required by March 17th.

SUMMER CAMP AT METROZOO

June – August, Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

It is time again for children to enjoy and learn about the wonderful animals at the Zoo! Zoo Camp fun activities will help children to understand and appreciate wildlife, as well as learn about conservation strategies.

Find a detailed schedule and other information in the May-June issue of Toucan Talk, or on the Zoo's website at www.miamimetrozoo.com.



AT THE ZOO!

SEASONAL FUN FOR EVERYONE!

PHOTO: DOLORA BATCHELOR

LIMITED TIME: ONLY THROUGH MARCH 21
MASTERS OF THE NIGHT: THE TRUE STORY OF BATS
At Dr. Wilde's World, Daily, 10:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Nearly 1,000 kinds of bats, almost a quarter of all mammal species, inhabit the earth! Are all bats vampires? Are they blind? Do they really get tangled in your hair? Your adventure into their world will answer these and many more questions about these misunderstood animals.



BALL OF THE WILD: THE ALLURE OF ASIA
Saturday, March 6. 7:00 P.M. – Midnight.

The Zoological Society of Florida and Miami Metrozoo's annual fundraiser held at the American Bankers Family Aviary, *Wings of Asia*, providing music, dancing, gourmet food, and special Asian entertainment to benefit Miami Metrozoo. \$500 per person; Tables: \$5,000-\$25,000. For updated information, visit the Zoo's website at www.miamimetrozoo.com or call 305-255-5551, ext. 117.

ANGELS HATCHERY ANNUAL KOI POND WORKSHOP
Saturday, March 13, 9 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Avenue, Miami

Enjoy a fascinating lecture on Koi health, pond management, nutrition, disease prevention, and construction. A question and answer period will be followed by a tour of an ornamental fish farm.

Cost: \$20 per person. Proceeds are donated to Miami Metrozoo
To register: Call Angels Hatchery at 305-248-7777.

DINO DAYS
At the Aviary Plaza Tent,
Daily, March 20 – April 4

Kids of all ages (1 to 100) will have a good old time reliving the times when dinosaurs roamed the earth. There will be life-like dinosaurs, dinosaur games and dinosaur crafts for everyone.

THE GREAT MIAMI METROZOO EGG SAFARI
Saturday and Sunday,
April 10 and 11, 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

It's a magical day at Miami Metrozoo! Continuous egg safaris for kids 12 and under at the Picnic and Jazz fields. Face painting, the Easter Bunny, fun "eggsperiments" and more! Free with regular Zoo admission.



THE CORPORATE SURVIVAL CHALLENGE
Saturday, April 17, 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.
(Rain or Shine)

Sponsored by the Wild Bunch, tribal teams of five members each will compete against each other in a series of timed outdoor physical and mental challenges. In an attempt to be one with nature, each tribe will test

its ability to collaborate in this team-building, all-day adventure while competing against other tribes for exciting prizes.

Conditions: Each team is comprised of five members, two of which must be women. All participants must be at least 18 years of age. One change of clothing (comfortable clothing and athletic shoes are highly recommended). Sunscreen and bug repellent a must

Prohibited: Cell phones, beepers, PDAs, lap tops or any communication devices. Radios or any other type of electronic or battery-operated devices. Watches, clocks, time pieces. Matches, lighters, cigarettes, cigars, or any "smoking" devices. Any type of food or beverage item or energy enhancing pills or vitamins (only

prescription medication will be allowed). Books, newspapers or any reading materials

Registration

To register, call Anna Hudson at 305-255-5551, ext. 117. At registration, each team will be supplied with basic food rations and supplies. An orientation will take place after registration, and then it's for each team to work together and fend for themselves....

May the strong survive!

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY ALL WEEK!
Monday, April 19 – Friday, April 23

Join us for the next expedition! See the Zoo's rare Pineland area up close, and personal! These interactive programs are fun, educational, and may include a live animal. The program time varies from 15 to 45 minutes. Please meet your host, "Pineland Lily", in the Australian lobe, near the Koala Exhibit, shown on the left side of your Zoo map. Recommended for adults and their children aged 10 or older. Pineland programs are free with Zoo admission; ZSF Members & school groups are welcome.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00	Long hike	Birds	Who Eats What	Plant Game	Home To?
03:00	Birds	Who Eats What	Plant Game	Home To?	Long Hike
04:00	Who Eats What	Plant Game	Home To?	Long Hike	Birds

12400 S.W. 152 Street, (305) 251-0400 Group Sales; (305) 255-5551 Education Department for pineland activity information

Children ages 10 - 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

These 20-30-minute programs are free with Zoo admission, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

CALENDAR EVENTS AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
 For more information, please call Miami Metrozoo at (305) 251-0400 or visit the Zoo's website at www.miamimetrozoo.com.

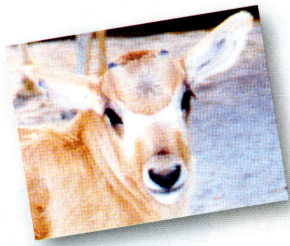


GET A FREE PVC ANIMAL OF YOUR CHOICE*

Kids, get a free PVC animal from the Toucan Trader Gift Shop!

* One FREE PVC animal with this coupon. Limit one per family. Choose from selected items.

OFFER EXPIRES APRIL 30, 2004.



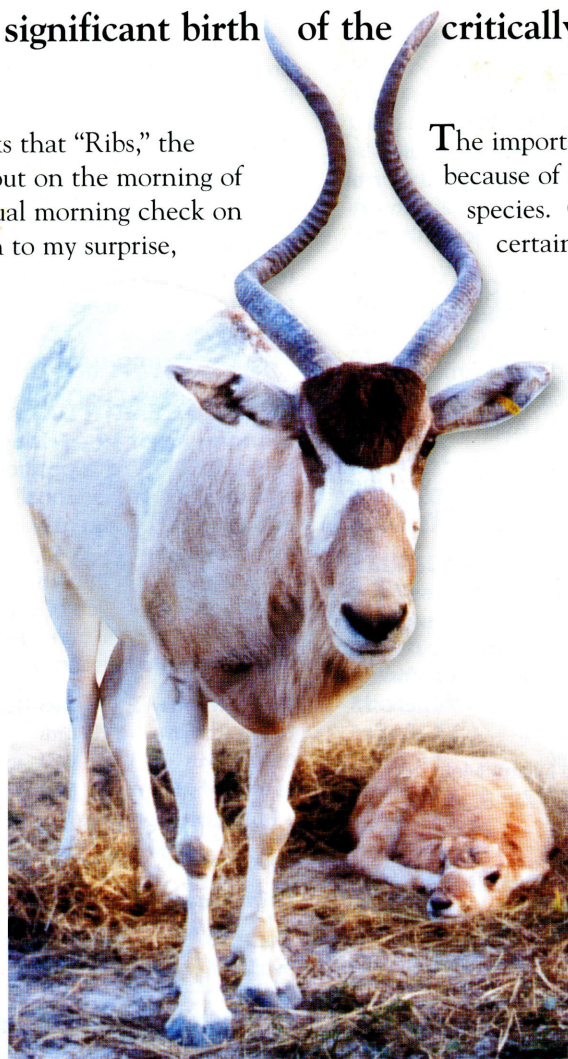
MEET "ABACUS"

A significant birth of the critically endangered addax

By Jennifer Rehm, Zookeeper

Having suspected for the past few weeks that "Ribs," the female Addax, was pregnant, I headed out on the morning of Saturday, January 10, 2004 to do my usual morning check on her before beginning my routine. Much to my surprise, I drove up at 9:05 a.m. to see her lying on her side and in the middle of a contraction! The head of the baby she was giving birth to was clearly visible. After excitedly notifying my supervisor, I positioned myself into a good, and more importantly, non-disturbing position to watch the birth. After ten minutes, and with a very audible "plop" sound, the baby slid out and the mother began to clean it. The baby was standing in less than two hours and eagerly nursing. This was the first actual birthing I have attended of any zoo animal, and it was an amazing event to witness.

The mother has continued to be very attentive and protective of the baby. Two days later, the Zoo's vet performed a neonatal examination on the baby that revealed it to be a boy. We named him "Abacus." He is Ribs's seventh baby.



Ribs and Abacus shortly after birth

The importance of this birth cannot be understated because of the critically endangered status of the species. Once actually having gone extinct in certain parts of the wild, Addax populations have made a small come back, mainly due to reintroduction efforts. Addax are in the antelope family and are related to the Oryx and Sable, which are also on display here at Miami Metrozoo. Native to the arid regions of northern Africa, they can even survive in the Sahara Desert. They are able to get most of the water they need from the plants they eat. Gestation for the addax is usually around 8 months, and the babies are born with their horn nubs already showing. They can live into their twenties in captivity.

Abacus will eventually have to go to another zoo, since we already have "Brutus", an adult male who is Abacus's dad. Until then, Abacus can be seen on display with his mother and father. The Addax exhibit is near Dr. Wilde's world, by the Bongo and Dama Gazelle exhibits as you exit the Zoo.

PHOTOS: JENNIFER REHM



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA
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